

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title	Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project
Brief Description	<p>The Bass Lake Ranger District will reduce hazardous fuel accumulation of dead and down fuels within 100 ft of the trail system in and around the Nelder Grove Historical Site Area, including around specimen giant sequoia trees associated with the trail systems. The Project is located in Madera County, east of Highway 41, south of the Wawona Entrance to Yosemite National Park and north of the town of Oakhurst. The 6.5 miles of trails, and 167 acres of fuels reduction work include The Chimney Tree Trail, Shadow of the Giants Trail, The Bull Buck Trail and road system leading to the Graveyard of the Giants. A crew of ten to thirteen people and forest volunteers will be used to feed dead and down fuels into a piles and burn. Downed sequoias will be repurposed in and around Nelder Grove trail system and campground as building materials. The logs will also be used to repair trail fencing, fencing around the specimen trees and as needed in the campground. Local camps near Nelder Grove include Camp Adahi, and Calvin Crest. The overall project objectives are to return the grove to a healthier and natural state by accomplishing three goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of fuel loading, such that fire would not have severe affects to large specimen trees, trail systems, and wildlife habitat. • Protection and improvement of the watershed. • Improvement of visual aesthetics and safety for visitors by cleaning up in and around the trail systems. <p>PAGE 2 OF 3</p> <p>Reducing fuel loading will not only reduce fire intensity from a wildfire, and will also aide in achieving the long term goal of reintroducing fire to lands outside of the trail systems of Nelder Grove. Soil movement into streams, lakes, and riparian zones may degrade water quality and change the geomorphic and hydrologic characteristics of these</p>

	systems and soil loss from hillslopes may alter future site productivity. Reducing fuels also aids in protecting sensitive botanical and wildlife habitat from complete devastation.
Total Requested Amount	299,510.34
Other Fund Proposed	20,946.00
Total Project Cost	320,456.34
Project Category	Site Improvement/Restoration
Project Area/Size	167
Project Area Type	Acres
Have you submitted to SNC this fiscal year?	No
Is this application related to other SNC funding?	No

Project Results
Infrastructure development/improvement

Project Purpose	Project Purpose Percent
Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (Fire)	
Water Quality	

County
Madera

Sub Region
South

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name	Ms. Luz Vasquez,
Title	
Organization	USDA Forest Service, Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake Ranger District
Primary Address	, , , , ,
Primary Phone/Fax	559-877-2218 Ext.
Primary Email	lvasquez@fs.fed.us

PROJECT LOCATION INFORMATION

Project Location

Address:	Nelder Grove, Sierra National Forest, N/A, N/A, CA, N/A United States
Water Agency:	Mariposa Public Utilities District
Latitude:	119.586
Longitude:	-37.439
Congressional District:	n/a
Senate:	n/a
Assembly:	n/a
Within City Limits:	No
City Name:	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grant Application Type

Grant Application Type:
Category One Site Improvement

PROJECT OTHER CONTACTS INFORMATION

Other Grant Project Contacts
Name: Ms. Luz L Vasquez, Project Role: Day-to-Day Responsibility Phone: 5598772218 Phone Ext: 3207 E-mail: lvasquez@fs.fed.us

UPLOADS

The following pages contain the following uploads provided by the applicant:

Upload Name
Completed Application Checklist
Table of Contents
Full Application Form
Authorization to Apply or Resolution
Narrative Descriptions
Detailed Budget Form
Regulatory Requirements or Permits
Regulatory Requirements or Permits
Regulatory Requirements or Permits
Regulatory Requirements or Permits
NEPA Documentation
Letters of Support
Letters of Support
Letters of Support

[illegible]

Letters of Support

To preserve the integrity of the uploaded document, headers, footers and page numbers have not been added by the system.

Appendix B1

Full Application Checklist

Project Name: Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

Applicant: Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake Ranger District

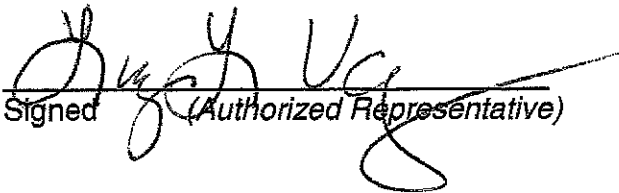
Please mark each box: check if item is included in the application; mark "N/A" if not applicable to the project. "N/A" identifications must be explained in the application. Please consult with SNC staff prior to submission if you have any questions about the applicability to your project of any items on the checklist. All applications must include a CD including an electronic file of each checklist item, if applicable. The naming convention for each electronic file is listed after each item on the checklist. (Electronic File Name = EFN: "naming convention". file extension choices)

Submission requirements for all Category One and Category Two Grant Applications

1. ☒ Completed Application Checklist (EFN: Checklist.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf)
2. ☒ Table of Contents (EFN: TOC.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf)
3. ☒ Full Application Project Information Form (EFN: SIform.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf)
4. ☒ Authorization to Apply or Resolution (EFN: authorization.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf)
5. ☒ Narrative Descriptions - Submit a single document that includes each of the following narrative descriptions (EFN: Narrative.doc, .docx, .rtf)
 - a. ☒ Detailed Project Description (5,000 character maximum)
 - ☒ Project Description including Goals/Results, Scope of Work, Location, Purpose, etc.
 - ☒ Project Summary
 - ☒ Environmental Setting
 - b. ☒ Workplan and Schedule (1,000 character maximum)
 - c. ☒ Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements(1,000 character maximum)
 - d. ☒ Organizational Capacity(1,000 character maximum)
 - e. ☒ Cooperation and Community Support (1,000 character maximum)
 - f. ☒ Long Term Management and Sustainability (1,000 character maximum)
 - g. ☒ Performance Measures (1,000 character maximum)
6. Supplemental and Supporting documents
 - a. ☒ Detailed Budget Form (EFN: Budget.xls, .xlsx)
 - b. Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements, as applicable
 - ☒ Restrictions / Agreements (EFN: RestAgree.pdf) On Forest Service Land
 - ☒ Regulatory Requirements / Permits (EFN: RegPermit.pdf)

- ☒ California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation (EFN: CEQA.pdf)
- ☒ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation (EFN: NEPA.pdf) Decision Memo
- c. Cooperation and Community Support
- ☒ Letters of Support (EFN: LOS.pdf)
- d. Long-Term Management and Sustainability
- ☒ Long-Term Management Plan (EFN: LTMP.pdf)
- e. Maps and Photos
- ☒ Project Location Map (EFN: LocMap.pdf)
- ☒ Parcel Map showing County Assessor's Parcel Number(s) (EFN: ParcelMap.pdf)
- ☒ Topographic Map (EFN: Topo.pdf)
- ☒ Photos of the Project Site (10 maximum) (EFN: Photo.jpg, .gif)
- f. Additional submission requirements for Conservation Easement Acquisition applications only on Federal Land
- ☒ Acquisition Schedule (EFN: acqSched.doc,.docx,.rtf,.pdf)
- ☒ Willing Seller Letter (EFN: WillSell.pdf)
- ☒ Real Estate Appraisal (EFN: Appraisal.pdf)
- ☒ Conservation Easement Language (EFN: CE.pdf)
- g. Additional submission requirements for Site Improvement / Restoration Project applications only
- ☐ Land Tenure Documents – attach only if documentation was not included with Pre-application (EFN: Tenure.pdf)
- ☐ Site Plan (EFN: SitePlan.pdf)
- ☐ Leases or Agreements (EFN: LeaseAgmt.pdf)

I certify that the information contained in the Application, including required attachments, is accurate.

Signed  (Authorized Representative)

1-20-2012
Date

Luz L. Vasquez
Name and Title (print or type)

Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

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Full Application Project Information Form

Authorization or Resolution to Apply

Narrative Description

Detailed Project Description

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 - b. Hydrology
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 - 1. Friends of Nelder
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- f. Maps
 - 1. Project Location Map: Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction Vicinity Map
 - 2. Parcel Map: Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction
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 - 4. Photos of the Project Site

Appendix B2

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY PROPOSITION 84 - PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

Rev. August 2011

PROJECT NAME: Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

APPLICANT NAME: Sierra National Forest-Bass Lake Ranger District

57003 Rd 225 North Fork, CA 93643

PERSON WITH FISCAL MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANT CONTRACT/INVOICING

Name and title – Gloria Smith Phone-(559) 877-2218 Ext. 3103 Email Address-gsmith07@fs.fed.us

☐ Mr.

☒ Ms.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR PLANNING DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION (*At least one entry is required*)

Name: Norman L. Allinder

Phone Number: (559) 675-7821

Email address: mc_planning@madera-county.com

Name:

Phone Number:

Email address:

NEAREST PUBLIC WATER AGENCY (OR AGENCIES) CONTACT INFORMATION (*At least one entry is required*)

Name: Mariposa Public Utilities District

Phone Number: (209) 966-2515

Email address: mpud@sti.net

Name: Madera County Flood Control and
Water Conservation Agency

Phone Number: (559) 675-7703

Email address: info@madera-county.com

Please identify the appropriate project category below and provide the associated details (*Choose One*)

☒ Category One Site Improvement

☐ Category Two Pre-Project Activities

☐ Category One Conservation Easement Acquisition

☐ **Site Improvement/Conservation Easement Acquisition**

Project area: Sierra National Forest –Nelder Grove Historical Area

Total Acres: 167 acres

SNC Portion (if different): _____

Total Miles (i.e. river or stream bank): 1 mile

Select one primary Site Improvement/Conservation Easement Acquisition deliverable

☒ Restoration

☒ Enhancement

☒ Resource Protection

☐ Infrastructure Development / Improvement

<div>SNC Portion (if different): _____</div> <div>For Conservation Easement Acquisitions Only</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Appraisal Included</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Will submit appraisal by _____</div>	<div><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Easement</div>
<div><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Project Activities</div>	<div>Select <u>one</u> primary Pre-Project deliverable</div> <div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Permit</div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEQA/NEPA Compliance</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Appraisal</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Plan</div></div> <div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Condition Assessment</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Biological Survey</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Site Assessment</div></div>



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Bass Lake
Ranger
District

57003 Road 225
North Fork, CA 93643
(559) 877-2218
(559) 877-3108 FAX
(800) 735-2929 CA Relay Service

File Code: 1580/2330/2510/5150

Date: January 19, 2012

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive Ste. 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Sierra Nevada Conservancy;

I have reviewed the project proposals located within the Bass Lake Ranger District of the Sierra National Forest that are now being submitted as full grant applications to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy under Proposition 84. The applications include the following proposed projects:

- Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction;
- Generation Green Stewardship Crews;
- Upper Chiquito Creek Meadow Restoration; and
- Kelty Meadow Campground Restoration and Facilities Improvement.

This is a great opportunity for my staff to enhance our partnership with interested stakeholders and I wholeheartedly support these proposals. Thank you for presenting this opportunity to connect people with and improve our National Forest lands.

Sincerely,

DAVID W. MARTIN
District Ranger



Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

Detailed Project Description Narrative

Project Description and Summary:

The Bass Lake Ranger District has determined the need to reduce hazardous fuel accumulation of dead and down fuels within 100 ft of the trail system in and around the Nelder Grove Historical Site Area, including around specimen trees associated with the trail systems. The trail and road systems that are within the proposed project consist of The Chimney Tree Trail, Shadow of the Giants Trail, the Bull Buck Trail and road system leading to the Graveyard of the Giants. This is 6.5 miles of trails, and 167 acres of fuels reduction work along the trail systems. A crew of ten to 13 people would be used to feed dead and down fuels into a pile and burn it. Crew members and forest volunteers would be utilized to stock pile selected logs from down fuels. Log diameters of 4" to 12" and minimum of 8' lengths would be stock piled. Down redwoods would be repurposed in and around Nelder Grove trail system and campground as building materials. The logs would also be used to repair trail fencing, fencing around the specimen trees and as needed in the campground.

The overall project objectives are to return the grove to a healthier and natural state by trying to accomplish three goals:

- Reduction of fuel loading, to a condition that if a fire started and moved into Nelder Grove it would not have severe affects to large specimen trees, trail systems, and wildlife habitat.
- Protection and improvement of the watershed.
- Improvement of visual aesthetics and safety for visitors by cleaning up in and around the trail systems.

Currently the fuel buildup is at 84 tons per acre (**Error! Reference source not found.**), with the fuel goal of 10 tons per acre and 20 tons per acre along the trail systems and around the large specimen trees. (**Error! Reference source not found.**) Fuel loading in this area has also become extremely hazardous due to blow down, work that was done in 2001 and overall lack of management. (**Error! Reference source not found.**) Reducing fuel loading would not only reduce fire intensity from a wildfire, and would also aide in achieving the long term goal of reintroducing fire lands outside of the trail systems of Nelder Grove. Prescribed fire will also catalyze sprouting in seed beds of the giant sequoias for which regeneration is fire dependant. Fuels reduction as mentioned before would aide in the protection of complete devastation to sensitive botanical and wildlife habitat.

The protection and improvement of watershed with California Creek and Nelder Creek watersheds which both run through Nelder Grove is an objective that could be completed with prescribed fire. Prescribed fire would aid in the reduction of the post wild fire effects within the creek system, which include soil loss and increased sedimentation. Much research has been done on the aftermaths of fire on the ecosystems and watershed. "High severity burn area experience higher rates of soil loss from erosion, increased flows of runoff, greater duff reduction, loss in soil nutrients, and soil heating. If the organic layers are consumed and mineral soil is exposed, soil infiltration and water storage capacities are reduced. Such impacts may last weeks or decades, depending on the fire's severity and intensity, any remedial measures,

and the rate of vegetative recovery. Burning also reduces the amount of rainfall interception by the forest canopy and reduces evapotranspiration by the forest vegetation” (Robichaud 2011). Crew members would pull logs to designated pile sites, reducing fuels within and around the creek beds to aide them to recreate their natural state. Also research has shown that “Loss of soil from hill slope produce several significant ecosystem impacts. Soil movement into streams, lakes, and riparian zones may degrade water quality and change the geomorphic and hydrologic characteristics of these systems and soil loss from hillslopes may alter future site productivity” (Robichaud 2011). These are adverse effects we are hoping to reduce or avoid.

Safety, aesthetics enhancement, and education are additional objectives because of the high public use of Nelder Grove. With Nelder Grove located south of Yosemite and receiving overflow from the park, and also having many visitors locally from the valley, the Sierra National Forest (SNF) needs to ensure that they are able to enjoy the grove safely and take in all it has to offer. Not only will this fuels reduction project enhance aesthetics by removing dangerous overhung and down logs from the view shed visitor safety will be increased. **Error! Reference source not found.**

Many local camps are near Nelder Grove including Camp Adahi, and Calvin Crest. The youth that come to these camps have either never been to their local mountain area, do not know the importance of the watersheds, and have never enjoyed the beauty of giant sequoias. Camps bring their campers to the grove educating them on the importance of keeping our forest clean and healthy, and how the forest impacts their everyday lives in the valley. The SNF wants these visitors to leave with an impression that will alter the way they see our local mountains, so they have a desire to participate in the protection and preservation of their local resources. These local camps are bringing new knowledge to a diverse group of youth that can take this information home to their families and continue the education process. Not only are we protecting the public’s safety but also creating the future stewards, local government and firefighters that will be protecting and ensuring that Nelder Grove is a resource that the public can continue to enjoy. **Error! Reference source not found.**

Environmental Setting:

Nelder Grove is a very special place valued and enjoyed by many which provides important ecosystem services. It is one of approximately 75 naturally occurring sequoia groves in California. It is approximately 1,500 acres in size, with 101 mature Giant Sequoia trees (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) and numerous young growth sequoias. Other values associated with the Nelder Grove: historic logging camp buildings/equipment; Native American prehistoric sites, wildlife habitat for various species including Pacific fisher(*Martes pennant*)/California Spotted Owl(*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*/American Goshawk(*Accipiter gentilis*); watershed for domestic and agricultural water supplies; and sensitive botanical species Lady Slipper (*Cypripedioidea*). Nelder Grove includes several visitor oriented amenities which include interpretive sites, campground and trail system focused on the largest of the specimen trees. **(Error! Reference source not found..IMGP1010996_NGPic6)** Nelder Grove is visited by over 3,000 people per year. These visitors range from local camps (for youth educational programs), tourists, and local community members with a vested interest in the grove itself.

The Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project is within the Nelder Grove Historic Area (Nelder Grove) on the Sierra National Forest-Bass Lake Ranger District. It is located in Madera County; it is east of Highway 41, south of the Wawona Entrance to Yosemite National Park and north of the town of

Oakhurst. Elevations in Nelder Grove range from 4,920 to 6,280 feet above mean sea level with slopes averaging 0 to 60%. It is located at Latitude 119.586 X Longitude 37.439.

Nelder Grove was logged in the late 1800's, early 1900's with the most recent harvesting being completed in 1996 to 2001, where only trees hazardous to public safety were removed. There has been no management of the forest after those years. During this period active fire suppression became policy, so all fires occurring in Nelder Grove were suppressed at the smallest size possible. There have been few fires recorded within Nelder Grove until last year. A human- caused fire started within the grove; the fire was contained at about two acres due to the quick reaction of the local federal firefighting agency. Fire history has shown several larger fires have occurred within close proximity to its boundary which were suppressed before entering Nelder Grove. Forest structure has changed from open stands of sequoia and pines to tightly growing closed stands, with sequoia dominating the upper reaches and encroachment of true fir and cedar in the understory. This change has created the unnatural accumulation of dead and down limbs, branches, logs and trees (averaging 84 tons/acre) to such a degree that it is difficult or in some places it is not possible to walk amongst the forest or see the area from the trails. (**Error! Reference source not found.**) It has also changed the way fire travels through the forest. Nelder Grove has transitioned from an area that had frequent low intensity fires, to one where fire occurs infrequently and has the potential to be of high intensity.

With the predicted changes in climate and the changes in forest structure, concerns have grown over the potential effects a fire of high intensity could have within Nelder Grove. Although sequoias are generally known to be a fire adapted species, a wildfire with high intensity could pose a threat to the sequoia's continued viability. The inclusion of true firs/cedars and dead/down fuels have created a "ladder" under the larger specimen tree's crowns that did not occur before (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Fire has the potential to climb this "ladder", and threaten the specimen trees. With this increased intensity from the fuel build-up, there is an increased potential for severe effects from fire. This could lead to a loss of understory trees, mid story trees and even in some cases the specimens trees themselves. In the worst of cases, the area could be left devastated with nothing remaining, but blackened trees. But the loss of conifer forest would not be the only loss. With nothing left on the ground, water from winter/spring storms have the potential to cause erosion of the soil, channeling sediment into stream courses and deteriorating water quality. Wildlife species that depend on the old forest ecosystem provided by Nelder Grove would be forced to move to other forest locations. Visitors to this area would no longer be able to enjoy the area for the values they once did. What took 3,000 years to create would be starting over and take multiple life times to re-create with the potential for it to not return.

Work Plan and Schedule:

Nelder Grove has limited operating periods due to wildlife/plant species in the area, smoke management days, high visitors and elevation that will be taken into consideration while completing this project. We will continue this project past the span of the grant. Compiling to San Joaquin air quality is one of the determining factors prior to pile burning. In addition Nelder Grove is at a higher elevation so access to the project is weather dependant. Currently we are estimating 70 work days per calendar year for this project. Work will begin in spring/winter of 2012 with archeology surveys starting within Chimney Tree trail. Archeologist will be working with a fuel technician and determining eligible sites to begin piling dead and down fuels and marking prehistoric sites. The archeology surveys will be ongoing process as the project progresses to each trail system. We will be dividing the work by the four mentioned trail systems.

We have determined that of the four trail system the Chimney tree trail has the most workable days, and has the heaviest fuel loading (**Error! Reference source not found.**). We would begin work on this trail system first; beginning in the fall of 2012 crew personnel would be able to begin the burning process of the project. Fuel loading is estimated to be between 60-84 tons an acre on this trail system. Production rate for piling and burning on this trail system would average between .25 to .3 of an acre a day. The SNF would like to complete the work on Chimney Tree Trail at the end of December 2013, 30.25 acres of piling and burning and the reduction in fuel loading to 10-20 tons per acre.

The second trail we would begin would be the Bull Buck trail which has a fuel loading of about 40-60 tons per acre. Bull Buck trail leads to the Bull Buck tree which is a staggering 248' tall and has a 100' circumference at the base (**Error! Reference source not found.**). This trail has fewer hazards and less work increasing our production rate to an average of .3 to .5 acres of work a day, we used .5 acres a day to determine our timeline. We would begin work after Labor Day from September 2013 to December 2013, with an estimated 50 work days. We would accomplish our goals on Bull Buck trail of 12.09 acres of pile burning and reducing fuel loading to 10 to 20 tons per acre by the end of 2013.

We would then move on to the Shadow of the Giants between January 2014 – May 2015 with an estimated 90 work days in this time frame we would hope to accomplish 30 -48.38 acres of pile burning. The production rate of .3 to .5 acres of work a day was also used for this trail system, using .5 acres a day to determine the timeline. We would complete the 48.38 acres and reduction in fuel loading to 10-20 tons per acre by the end of May 2015

The last trail we would work on would be the three mile trail Graveyard of the Giants, and an estimated 72.57 acres of burning. We would begin work in the fall of 2015 and the anticipated completion in the fall of 2016. We would accomplish 72.57 acres of piling and burning and reduce fuel loading to 10-20 tons per acre.

<i>Detailed Project Deliverables</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Goals Accomplished</i>
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<u>Chimney Tree Trail</u> : (1.25 mile trail system) = 30.25 acres of work -production rate being an average of .3 acres a day	-Work beginning in fall of 2012: September 2012 to December 2012 -Estimated 50 work days in this time frame	-Accomplish 10-20 acres of pile burning
<u>Chimney Tree Trail:</u> (10.25-20.25 acres of work)	-Work beginning in winter of 2013: January 2013 - May 2013 -Estimated 20 work days in this time frame	-Accomplish 6.0-10.0 acres of pile burning
<u>Chimney Tree Trail:</u> (4.25-10.25 acres of work)	-Work beginning after Labor Day: September 2013 – December 2013 -Estimated 50 work days in this time frame	-Accomplish 4.25-10.25 acres of pile burning -Reduce fuel loading to 10-20 tons per acre *Chimney Tree Trail Completed
<i>Archeology & Botany Input</i>	-Input completed by Labor Day 2013, on Bull Buck trail	-Flag appropriate sites to pile and burn
<u>Bull Buck Trail</u> : (.5 miles of trail system) = 12.09 acres of work -production rate being an average of .5 acres a day	-Work beginning after Labor day: September 2013 - December 2013 -Estimated 50 work days in this time frame	-Accomplish 6-12.09 acres of pile burning -Reduce fuel loading to 10-20 tons per acre *Bull Buck Trail Completed
<i>Archeology & Botany Input</i>	-Input completed by November 2014: On Shadow of the Giants trail	-Flag appropriate sites to pile and burn
<u>Shadow of the Giants:</u> (2miles of trail system) = 48.38 acres of work -production rate being an average of .5 acres a day	-Work beginning in Winter 2014: January 2014 – May 2014 -Estimated 20 work days	-Accomplish 5-15 acres of pile burning
<u>Shadow of the Giants</u> : 33.38-43.38 acres of work	- Work beginning after Labor Day: September 2014 – December 2014 -Estimated 50 work days in this time frame	-Accomplish 20-30 acres of pile burning
<u>Shadow of the Giants</u> : 10-15 - acres of work	- Work beginning in winter 2015: January 2015 – May 2015 -Estimated 20 work days in this time frame	-Accomplish 10-15 acres of pile burning -Reduce fuel loading to 10-20 tons per acre *Shadow of the Giants Trail Completed
<i>Archeology Surveys</i>	-Survey beginning and completed by Labor Day 2015: on Graveyard of the Giants trail	-Flag appropriate sites to pile and burn
<u>Graveyard of the Giants:</u> (3miles) – 72.57 acres -(production rate being an average of .5 acres a day)	- Work beginning after Labor Day: September 2015 – December 2015 -Estimated 50 work days in this time frame	-Accomplish 20-30 acres of pile burning
<u>Graveyard of the Giants:</u> 42.57-52.57 acres of work	- Work beginning in Winter of 2016: January 2016 – May 2016 -Estimated 20 work days in this time frame	-Accomplish 5-15 acres of pile burning
<u>Graveyard of the Giants:</u> 27.57-37.57- acres of work	- Work beginning in Fall of 2016: September 2016 – December 2016 -Estimated 50 work days in this time frame	-Accomplish 20-30 acres of pile burning -Reduce fuel loading to 10-20 tons per acre

Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements

Restrictions/Agreements:

No property restrictions apply. All project activity will occur on National Forest System Lands and be implemented by the Sierra National Forest.

Regulatory Requirements and Permits:

Nelder Grove hazardous fuels reduction project is a categorically excluded project under NEPA, with a decision memo signed, completed and on file at the Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake Ranger District. In addition Nelder Grove is exempt from CEQA.

During the project proposal process we are required to collaborate with our specialist groups which include: Botanist, Land/Recreation, Hydrologist, Range, Biologist, Archeologist, and Silviculturist, prior to a Decision Memo being signed and approved by our District Ranger. Working with our specialist they are able to give feedback on sensitive species/habitat, archeological sites and any concerns they might have. Archeology, Botany, Wildlife, Hydrology and Recreation have given us procedures and guidelines we have to adhere to in the process of this project. We have worked with our specialists and have developed limiting operating periods for our wildlife to ensure we are protect and preserve prehistoric sites within the project. Our botanist report includes a map of sites we need to avoid, for the protection of Lady Slipper Orchid. Included in this report all equipment should arrive on sites free and clear of noxious weeds. Our hydrologist report states that we need to follow LRMP standard and guidelines for this project, due to Nelder Creek and California Creek running through the proposed project. Due to the high use of visitor and following the request of our Lands and recreation they would prohibit work from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Each of these factors were taken into consideration when setting up our work schedule to obtain our project objectives. Please see provided documentation under Regulatory Requirements and Permits, Project proposal forms submitted by our specialists.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

All NEPA for the Nelder Grove hazardous fuels reduction project has been completed by the SNF, Bass Lake Ranger District under a Categorical Exclusion and Decision Memo, which is on file at the Bass Lake Ranger District office in North Fork. In addition this project is Exempt from CEQA: Article 19 15304: "Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes." (Fuels management activities is under this example)

Organizational Capacity Narrative:

Currently the Bass Lake Ranger District has a fuels and fire organization (fuels/fire) that work on a variety of different projects throughout the year. The fuels organization is made up of a division chief, two fuels specialist, and two fuels technicians. The fire organization is made of a division chief, three battalions, two 20 person hotshot crews, seven type 3 engines (5 people per day), seven patrols and one water tender. Fuels/fire have been involved in fuels/hazard work reduction, wildland/prescribed fires, archeology, fencing/trail work, and various restoration projects. Many of our personnel have aided in prescribed fires on the Mariposa Grove, in Yosemite National Park. Yearly the fire crew can complete 100-150 acres of fuels reduction work and 200-500 acres of prescribed burn projects. The fuels/fire is also capable of completing highly sensitive projects, complying with standards and guidelines, and ensuring the protection of resources.

Our fuels department will be overseeing the entire project and working closely with the project/crew leader, archeologist, wildlife biologist, botanist and district ranger to ensure that the project is done efficiently and to the benefit of the various resources and wildlife. Currently the fire organization is the district biggest work force. The SNF be utilizing this highly skilled fire organization to make up a crew of 10-15 people per day to carry out and complete the Nelder Grove project over the three year span of the grant. In addition we will have fire prevention/patrols to monitor the trail and the Nelder Grove area during and after periods of burning.

In addition the SNF be utilizing our community supporters to assist in removal and clean up of dead and down logs.

Cooperation and Community Support:

There have been many interested people within the Forest Service and within the public that have been very supportive of the protection and conservation of the giant sequoias in Nelder Grove. There also is community excitement about the concept of reducing fuel loading and reintroducing fire in the grove, after many years of suppressing the natural cycle. Our stakeholders know the importance of fuels reduction in Nelder Grove and see the need. The biggest obstacle in management of Nelder Grove is lack of funding.

The Forest Service has received letters of support from Friends of Nelder Grove, Camp Adahi, and Calvin Crest. Many of our supporters have already volunteered time in maintaining Nelder Grove. In the past, Camp Adahi, and Friends of Nelder, have taken on the responsibility of cleaning and maintaining the Nelder Grove area. In addition, they have joined forces with the Forest Service and aided the recreation department in the removal of hazard trees. The Forest Service will be utilizing the help of volunteers from the Friends of Nelder, Camp Adahi, and Calvin Crest to remove and stock pile selected logs from the down fuels. We will be utilizing our fire/fuel personnel, wildlife biologist, and botanist to further educate these supporters prior to working in the area. We are hoping that this project will continue to strengthen and grow our working relationships with these supporters to the benefit of Nelder Grove.

Long-Term Management and Sustainability:

This project is considered the first step in the long term management of Nelder Grove. The long term goals for Nelder Grove would be to continue to expand fuel reduction efforts in and around the trail systems, current infrastructure and specimen trees where accumulations would be at such a level that prescribed fire could be reintroduce into this fire dependent ecosystem. Along with this goal, a long-term management plan for Nelder Grove would address the preservation, protection and restoration of the Historic Area and the values it holds for wildlife, watershed, botanical species, and the visitors who come to see it.

Performance Measures:

The overall project objectives are to return the grove to a healthier and natural state by trying to accomplish three goals:

- Reduction of fuel loading, to a condition that if a fire started and moved into Nelder Grove it would not have severe affects to large specimen trees, trail systems, and wildlife habitat.
 - Our main measuring tool will be the reduction of fuel loading using the Browns Plan Intercept fuel loading down and woody debris. This will be used for all objectives.
 - Before and after pictures will be taken.
 - Reduction of fuel loading to 10-20 tons per acre.
 - Pile burn acres completed
- Protection and improvement of the watershed.
 - The reduction of fuel loading to 10-20 tons per acre will aide in the reduction of a high intensity fire, leading to the protection of the watershed.
 - The removal of fuel with allow the natural flow of water to occur.
- Improvement of visual aesthetics and safety for visitors by cleaning up in and around the trail systems.
 - The reduction of fuel loading and hazardous trees with allow visitors enjoy the area safely.
 - Removal of hazardous tree along the trail systems increase the safety of visitors.
 - Before and after pictures of the reduction of hazardous trees taken down.

Sierra National Forest
Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project-Budget

	QTY.	Rate	# Of People	U.O.M.	Grant Request	Total
<u>DIRECT COSTS</u>						
<u>Operations</u>						
Project Leader-GS 9	105	172.00		1 DAYS	18060.00	18060.00
Crew Leader-GS 8	210	144.24		2 DAYS	30290.40	30290.40
GS-7	210	130.24		2 DAYS	54700.80	54700.80
GS-6	210	117.20		2 DAYS	49224.00	49224.00
GS-5 Lead Firefighter	210	105.12		4 DAYS	88300.80	88300.80
GS-6 Patrol and Prevention	105	117.20		1 Days	12306.00	12306.00
<u>Subtotal Operations</u>						<u>252882.00</u>
<u>Specialist Input</u>						
Tom Jones Archeology	10	240		Days	240.00	240.00
Mileage	195	0.51		Miles	99.45	99.45
District Archeologist	20	345.74		1 Days	6914.80	6914.80
Botanist	10	346.8		1 Days	3468.00	3468.00
Wildlife Biologist	20	291.42		1 Days	5828.40	5828.40
<u>Total</u>						<u>16550.65</u>
<u>TOTAL OPERATIONS</u>						<u>269432.65</u>

	QTY.	Rate	U.O.M.	Grant Request	Total
<u>Materials/Supplies</u>					
Chain Saw Supplies		400.00	Misc.	400.00	400.00
Saw Mix	16	34.98	Case	559.84	559.84
Bar Oil	16	36.99	Case	591.84	591.84
Chain	1	360.00	Roll	360.00	360.00
Round Files	2	16.00	Case	32.00	32.00
Chain Saw - Fuel	150	13.50	Day	2025.00	2025.00
Drip Torch - Fuel	240	4.50	Gallon	1080.00	1080.00
Flagging	2	13.17	Box	26.34	26.34
Gloves	24	13.64	Pair	327.36	327.36
Safety Gear			Misc.	832.24	832.24
Ear Plugs	2	25.00	Box	50.00	50.00
Batteries	30	18.31	Pack	549.30	549.30
Burn Signs	2	53.00	Each	106.00	106.00
Burn Signs Stands	2	68.00	Each	136.00	136.00
<u>Total Material/Supplies</u>					<u>7075.92</u>

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution District

	QTY.	Rate	U.O.M.	Grant Request	Total
Smoke Management					
Burn Acres	167	3.31	Acres	552.77	<u>552.77</u>
<u>Total</u>					<u>552.77</u>

	QTY.	Rate	U.O.M.	Grant Request	Total
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Vehicle Use

Vehicle - Crew Leader	5	449	Month	2245.00	2245.00
Vehicles - Crew	5	338	Month	1690.00	1690.00
Vehicles - Crew	5	338	Month	1690.00	1690.00

Mileage

Vehicle - Crew Leader	3150	0.65	Miles	5850.00	2047.50
Vehicles - Crew	3150	0.54	Miles	4860.00	1701.00
Vehicles - Crew	3150	0.54	Miles	4860.00	1701.00

Total Vehicle Use					<u>11074.50</u>
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Administrative Costs

Fuels Specialist	50	227.49	Days		11374.5
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SNC TOTAL GRANT REQUEST					<u>299510.34</u>
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Other Project Contributions

Total

Sierra National Forest			Additional Salary to Cover		20000.00
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	QTY.	Rate	U.O.M	Total
Fuels Technician	100	201.94	DAYS	20194.00

<u>Volunteers - In Kind</u>	8	94	10 DAYS	752.00	752.00
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Total					<u>20946.00</u>
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Any additional crew work as needed to complete project

TOTAL					<u>320456.34</u>
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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Bass Lake
Ranger
District

57003 Road 225
North Fork, CA 93643
559 877-2218
Fax 559 877-3108

File Code: 2670

Date: 1/5/2011

Luz Vasquez
Nelder Grove Project Leader
Sierra National Forest
Bass Lake Ranger District

Re: The Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Removal Project

This project proposes to remove and reduce the hazardous fuel accumulation of dead and downed fuels within 100 feet of trails and roads in and around the Nelder Grove Historical Site Area. The project work proposed for this area consists of piling and burning dead and downed fuels. This should reduce the fire behavior intensity and the resistance to control in case of a fire ignition start. Multiple campgrounds and trails are located within the Nelder Grove area and the proposed project will help to keep these features protected during a fire ignition start. Lower fire intensity will also help keep the areas wildlife habitat free from experiencing catastrophic damage.

I have reviewed the proposed Nelder Grove project. There are three California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*) protected activity centers (PACs) and two home range core areas (HRCAs) within the project boundaries. Spotted owl breeding season begins around March 1 and continues until mid August. To prevent disturbance of these owls during the breeding season, a limited operating period (LOP) of March 1st through August 15th will be in place for this project as per the 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA), Standards and Guidelines #75. No ground disturbing or noise producing activities may occur within the PACs, or ¼ mile surrounding the PACs, within this time frame.

The Bull Buck Loop trail is located almost entirely within the northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) PAC SIEGH44. The breeding season for northern goshawk is quite lengthy and spans six months. To prevent the disturbance of this pair during the breeding season, a limited operating period of February 15th through September 15th will be in place and applies to the Bull Buck Loop trail and portions of the Chimney Tree trail and the Graveyard of the Giants trail. No ground disturbing or noise producing activities may occur within the PAC, or ¼ mile surrounding the PAC, within this time frame as per the 2004 SNFPA Standards and Guidelines #76. Northern goshawks are quite sensitive to disturbance and may aggressively defend the nest outside of the breeding season so proper PPE should be worn at all times around this PAC.

The entire Nelder Grove project area is covered with five overlapping Pacific fisher (*Martes pennant pacifica*) den site buffers (denning season 2010). Fishers tend to begin breeding in late winter and early spring. In order to protect the fishers from disturbance during their breeding season, a limited operating period of March 1st through June 30th will be in place for this project as per the 2004 SNFPA, Standards and Guidelines for Fisher Den Sites #85, 86, and 87. No noise



producing or ground disturbing activities may occur in the project area during this time frame. In addition, piling and burning efforts should avoid anything over 20 inches dbh in order to retain larger diameter logs for fisher habitat requirements.

The table below displays the timeline of LOPs for the Nelder Grove project and the area and species that they pertain to, for convenience.

Species	LOP	Area	S & G Number
California spotted owl	Mar 1 – Aug 15	* PACs	75
Northern goshawk	Feb 15 – Sept 15	* PACs	76
Pacific fisher	Mar 1 – Jun 30	Entire Project	85, 86, 87

* LOP applies to the PACs as well as ¼ mile surrounding the PACs

Please contact the Bass Lake RD wildlife department immediately if any sensitive wildlife species are seen during project implementation or if there are any further questions. The district wildlife biologist, Anaé Otto can be reached at extension 3152 or I can be reached at extension 3214.

Sincerely,

Theresa Lowe
Biological Technician
Sierra National Forest
Bass Lake Ranger District
(559) 877 2218 ext. 3214
tmlowe@fs.fed.us

PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM
BASS LAKE RANGER DISTRICT - SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

PROJECT TITLE: Nelder Grove

PROVIDE PATH NAME TO APPLICABLE GIS COVERAGES: _____

SPECIALIST'S RESPONSE (check all that apply and include additional pages as needed):

☐ Based on my review of the proposed action there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action(s) for the location, intensity and amount of area described. Based on my review it is my professional judgment that the proposed action(s) will have no effect on the resource area listed below. I have no further input on the proposed action as it is currently described. *However, any changes to the proposed action(s), project location, intensity and/or amount of area impacted could result in a different conclusion. Please notify me of any changes so that I may update my response if needed.*

☒ The following Forest LRMP Standards and Guidelines apply to this project:

#64 d

☒ The following Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Standards & Guidelines apply to this project:

75, 76, 85, 86, 87

☒ Based on my professional judgment incorporation of the following project design measure(s) into the proposed action(s) will result in no adverse affects from the project (if the project design measure(s) listed here are not acceptable, please notify me so that I may update my response if needed):

LOP Mar 1 - Aug 15 for SPON PACs : 1/4 mile buffer (see map)
LOP Feb 15 - Sept 15 for NUGO PACs : 1/4 mile buffer (see map)
LOP Mar 1 - Jun 30 for entire project area

☐ Based on the information provided the proposed action is related to an extraordinary circumstance. I will need to conduct additional review to determine the degree of potential effect that the proposed action will have on the resource. This additional review consists of the following:

This will take approximately () day(s) to complete. I can provide this input by: _____

☐ The project description indicates that the project is sufficiently complex to require in-field review and/or surveys, and a separate report described as follows:

This will take approximately () day(s) to complete. I can provide this input by: _____

☐ Include the following interested or potentially affected Federal, State, and local agencies, individuals, groups and Indian tribe(s) in the scoping process:

SPECIALIST'S SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: 1/3/2010

SPECIALIST'S RESOURCE AREA: Terrestrial Wildlife

Nelder Grove Wildlife Concerns

MA079

MA079

MP070 STEGH56

MA069

T5-

T6S

MA069

MA001

MA001

MA001

MA003

MA003

MA078

MA078

MA079

Grouse Meadow

3538

3539

3538

3539

3538

3539

3538

3539

MA088

MA010

MA010

MA003

MA078

MA078

MA079

Grouse Meadow

3538

3539

3538

3539

3538

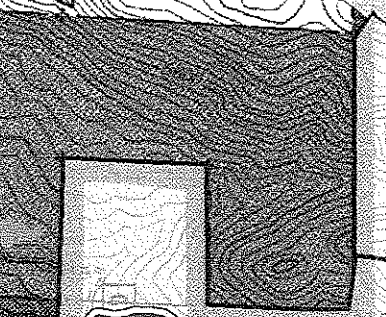
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3538

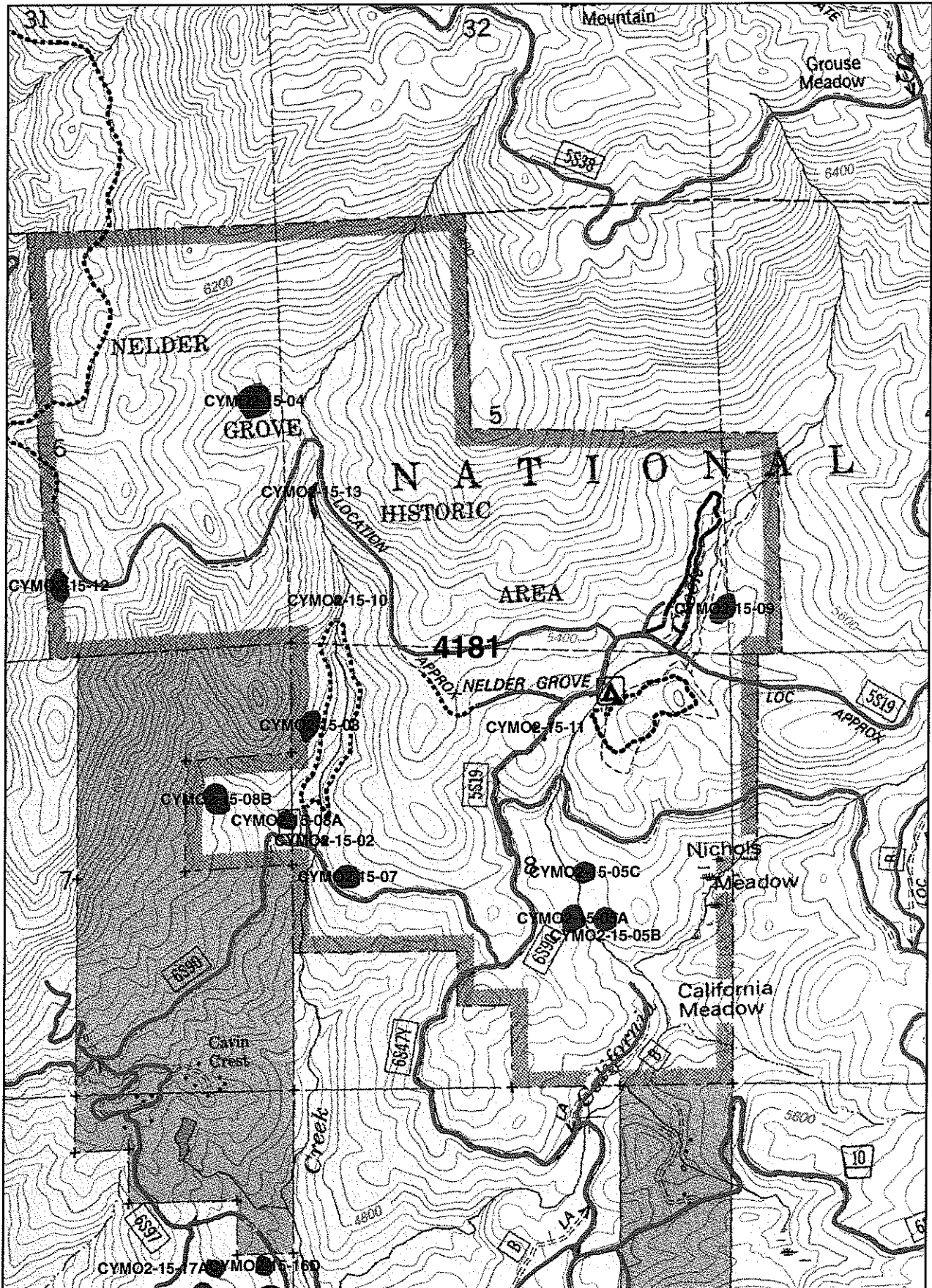
3539

Legend

- 2010 Fisher Den Site Buffers
- Chimney Tree Trail
- Bull Buck Loop
- Shadow of the Giants Loop
- Gravyard of the Giants Trail
- Proposed Project Area
- Meadows
- Goshawk PACs
- Spotted Owl
- Inca
- pac



Red = Lady's
slipper



PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM
BASS LAKE RANGER DISTRICT - SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

PROJECT TITLE: Nelder Grove

PROVIDE PATH NAME TO APPLICABLE GIS COVERAGES: _____

SPECIALIST'S RESPONSE (check all that apply and include additional pages as needed):

☒ Based on my review of the proposed action there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action(s) for the location, intensity and amount of area described. Based on my review it is my professional judgment that the proposed action(s) will have no effect on the resource area listed below. I have no further input on the proposed action as it is currently described. *However, any changes to the proposed action(s), project location, intensity and/or amount of area impacted could result in a different conclusion. Please notify me of any changes so that I may update my response if needed.*

☒ The following Forest LRMP Standards and Guidelines apply to this project:

Protection of Forest Service Sensitive Plants:

☒ The following Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Standards & Guidelines apply to this project:

lady's slipper orchids will be flagged for avoidance
Weed prevention - gear + equipment should arrive on-site clean

☐ Based on my professional judgment incorporation of the following project design measure(s) into the proposed action(s) will result in no adverse effects from the project (if the project design measure(s) listed here are not acceptable, please notify me so that I may update my response if needed):

☐ Based on the information provided the proposed action is related to an extraordinary circumstance. I will need to conduct additional review to determine the degree of potential effect that the proposed action will have on the resource. This additional review consists of the following:

This will take approximately () day(s) to complete. I can provide this input by: _____

☐ The project description indicates that the project is sufficiently complex to require in-field review and/or surveys, and a separate report described as follows:

This will take approximately () day(s) to complete. I can provide this input by: _____

☐ Include the following interested or potentially affected Federal, State, and local agencies, individuals, groups and Indian tribe(s) in the scoping process:

SPECIALIST'S SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: 11/8/11

SPECIALIST'S RESOURCE AREA: Botany / Weeds

PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM
BASS LAKE RANGER DISTRICT - SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

PROJECT TITLE: NEIDER GROVE (HAND THINNING)

SPECIALIST'S RESPONSE (check all that apply and include additional pages as needed):

☐ Based on my review of the proposed action there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action(s) for the location, intensity and amount of area described. Based on my review it is my professional judgment that the proposed action(s) will have no effect on the resource area listed below. I have no further input on the proposed action as it is currently described. *However, any changes to the proposed action(s), project location, intensity and/or amount of area impacted could result in a different conclusion. Please notify me of any changes so that I may update my response if needed.*

☒ The following Forest LRMP Standards and Guidelines apply to this project:

SEE ATTACHED

☐ The following Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Standards & Guidelines apply to this project:

☐ Based on my professional judgment incorporation of the following project design measure(s) into the proposed action(s) will result in no adverse affects from the project (if the project design measure(s) listed here are not acceptable, please notify me so that I may update my response if needed):

☐ Based on the information provided the proposed action is related to an extraordinary circumstance. I will need to conduct additional review to determine the degree of potential effect that the proposed action will have on the resource. This additional review consists of the following:

This will take approximately () day(s) to complete. I can provide this input by: _____

☐ The project description indicates that the project is sufficiently complex to require in-field review and/or surveys, and a separate report described as follows:

This will take approximately () day(s) to complete. I can provide this input by: _____

☐ Include the following interested or potentially affected Federal, State, and local agencies, individuals, groups and Indian tribe(s) in the scoping process:

SPECIALIST'S SIGNATURE: [Signature] DATE: 2/7/2011

SPECIALIST'S RESOURCE AREA: HYDROLOGY

Nelder Grove Hand Thinning Stream Side management Zones

Soil and Water conservation Practices Handbook, Sierra National Forest Supplement No.1 (FSH2509.22), provides standards for the establishment and management of Stream Side Management Zones (SMZ).

The objectives of these measures are to designate a zone along riparian areas, streams, and wetlands that will minimize potential for adverse effects from adjacent management activities. Management activity in these zones is designated to improve riparian values. Additionally, objectives of SMZ's are to conduct management actions within these areas in a manner that maintains or improves riparian and aquatic values. SMZ's provide for unobstructed passage of stormflows, controls sediment and other pollutants from entering streamcourses, and restores the natural course of any stream as soon as practicable, where diversion of the stream has resulted from prescribed fire management activities.

Forest strategy provides direction for maintenance and improved conditions for riparian dependent resources. Resource Conservation Areas (RCA's) include aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and lands adjacent to perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams, as well as around meadows. Riparian dependent resources are those natural resources that owe their existence to the presence of surface or groundwater. Forest Strategy also maintains or restores soil properties and productivity to ensure ecosystem health, soil hydrologic function and biological buffering capacity.

The SMZ should not be considered a replacement of an RCA but a nested zone contained in the RCA developed for the filtering capability of the streamside zone. All streamcourses would be protected and assigned SMZ's (Figure 1). The streamcourses mapped in the project area provides information for development of watercourse protection measures such as:

- Any material that would cause obstruction of stormflows would be removed.
- All channels have SMZ's, which are equipment exclusion zones. Materials may be end-lined out of this zone.
- Perennial streams would have a minimum SMZ of 75-100 feet dependent on Stream Class; seasonally flowing/intermittent streams would have a minimum SMZ of 50 feet and ephemeral channels would have a minimum SMZ of 25 feet based on field investigations. The chart below provides a summary of SMZ by Stream Class.
- Treatment in prescribed burn units would avoid direct lighting for prescribed fire within riparian vegetation and or within five feet of the edge of stream channel; prescribed fires may back into riparian vegetation areas.

Stream Class	Width of the SMZ
I	100 ft. + 3 ft. x (percent side slope – 30) 100 feet plus 3 feet for each percent side slope above 30%
II	75 ft. + 3 ft. x (percent side slope – 30) 75 feet plus 3 feet for each percent side slope above 30%
III	50 ft. + 3 ft. x (percent side slope – 30) 50 feet plus 3 feet for each percent side slope above 30%
IV	25 ft. + 3 ft. x (percent side slope – 30) 25 feet plus 3 feet for each percent side slope above 30%
V	No special protection required

Table 1. Designation of SMZ width based on stream class and side slope gradient.

There is one Class I drainage within the project boundary (California Creek, 100' SMZ). If possible, pile burning should occur outside of the SMZ. If pile burning within the SMZ is necessary, then burn areas cannot diminish desired ground cover to less than 50% (i.e., where more than 50% of the protective ground cover is burned). If ground cover within the SMZ is diminished to less than 50%, then mitigation will be required and may include but not be limited to a supplemental mulch, living plants, or other treatments that must be applied to restore ground cover density to the required minimum. Suitable materials include 2 inches of litter or slash, less than 4" in diameter, certified weed-free rice or wood straw and/or bark chips

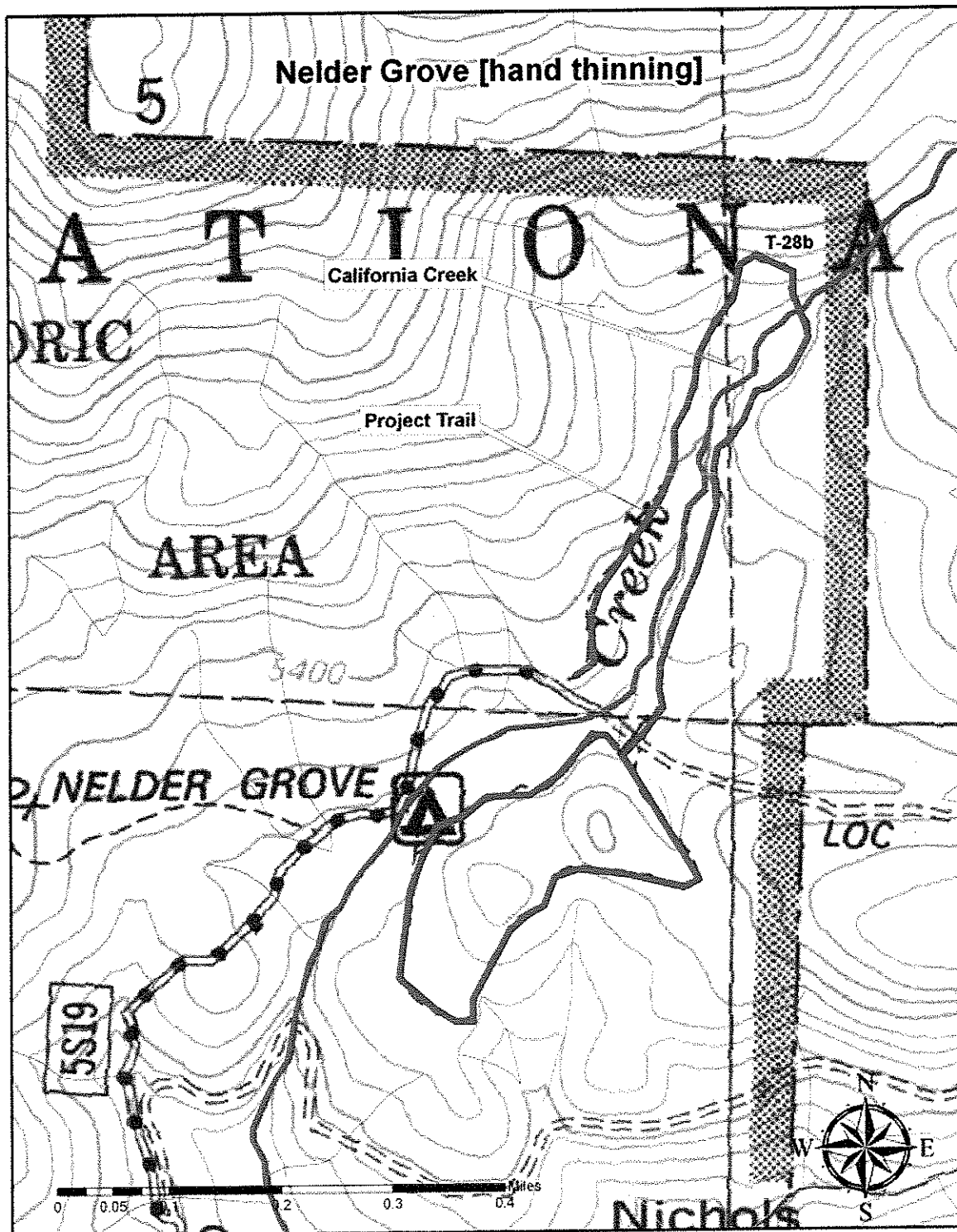


Figure 1. Map of the project trail segments close to California Creek. California Creek is a Class I stream with a designated 100' SMZ buffer. Pile burning should occur outside of the SMZ if possible.

PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM
BASS LAKE RANGER DISTRICT - SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

PROJECT TITLE: Nelder Grove

PROVIDE PATH NAME TO APPLICABLE GIS COVERAGES: _____

SPECIALIST'S RESPONSE (check all that apply and include additional pages as needed):

☒ Based on my review of the proposed action there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action(s) for the location, intensity and amount of area described. Based on my review it is my professional judgment that the proposed action(s) will have no effect on the resource area listed below. I have no further input on the proposed action as it is currently described. *However, any changes to the proposed action(s), project location, intensity and/or amount of area impacted could result in a different conclusion. Please notify me of any changes so that I may update my response if needed.*

☐ The following Forest LRMP Standards and Guidelines apply to this project:

☐ The following Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Standards & Guidelines apply to this project:

☒ Based on my professional judgment incorporation of the following project design measure(s) into the proposed action(s) will result in no adverse affects from the project (if the project design measure(s) listed here are not acceptable, please notify me so that I may update my response if needed):

work take place before or after rec season Memorial Day - Labor Day

☐ Based on the information provided the proposed action is related to an extraordinary circumstance. I will need to conduct additional review to determine the degree of potential effect that the proposed action will have on the resource. This additional review consists of the following:

This will take approximately () day(s) to complete. I can provide this input by: _____

☐ The project description indicates that the project is sufficiently complex to require in-field review and/or surveys, and a separate report described as follows:

This will take approximately () day(s) to complete. I can provide this input by: _____

☒ Include the following interested or potentially affected Federal, State, and local agencies, individuals, groups and Indian tribe(s) in the scoping process:

Friends of Nelder Grove - Brenda Negly
Campfire USA

SPECIALIST'S SIGNATURE: Mike Blatner

DATE: 12/13/01

SPECIALIST'S RESOURCE AREA: Recreation + Lands

Provide a Public Scoping Flyer to post @ Campground

Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

Decision Memo

Sierra National Forest
Bass Lake Ranger District
Madera County, California

Background

Nelder Grove Historical Site Area is a Giant Sequoia grove located in Madera County, within the Bass Lake Ranger District, just south of Yosemite Park. Due to historical controversy on how to manage groves of Giant Sequoias, there has been a lack of hazardous fuels reduction in the area. This abundance of fuel has potential for uncharacteristically severe fire behavior in and around the historical site. It also poses a significant threat to the remaining Giant Sequoia specimen trees.

Project Location

The project is located on the Bass Lake Ranger District, in the vicinity of Nelder Grove.

Legal Description: Sections 4, 5, 8, T.6S, R.22E, MDM&M.

Proposed Action

The Bass Lake Ranger District has determined the need to reduce hazardous fuel accumulation of dead and down fuels within 100ft of trail and road systems in and around the Nelder Grove Historical Site Area, including around specimen trees associated with the trail system. The trail and roads consists of The Chimney Tree Trail, Shadow of the Giants, the Bull Buck Trail and the road system leading to the Graveyard of the Giants. Removing the dead and down fuels would change the fire behavior by reducing fire intensity and resistance to control. This would meet the project objectives if fire were to ignite within the Nelder Grove Historical Site or move in from the surrounding area. Work will be done using pile and burning method. In which the crew will pile and feed the burn pile with dead and down fuel. Tools needed for the project will include the use of hand tools, chainsaws, and drip torches. Organized volunteers groups would also be utilized to stock pile redwood logs that could be used as building materials within the Nelder Grove trail systems.

Decision

This project is excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. This project fits the category of timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities as identified in FSH 1909.15, Sections 31.2 (6) (b) "Thinning or brush control to improve growth or to reduce fire hazard...." There are no identified extraordinary circumstances that might cause the proposed project to have significant adverse effects.

Biological assessments have been completed for terrestrial and aquatic species, hydrology/soils and special uses. Biological assessments will be maintained in the project file. The project will adhere to recommended measures documented in the biological assessments. All identified cultural resources and sensitive plant species within the project area will be adhered to within the design criteria as outlined in the Specialist Standards and Guidelines. There are no other identified impacts to range or silviculture.

Public Involvement

Public involvement includes: listing in the Sierra NF Schedule of Proposed Actions; scoping letters to Friends of Nelder Grove, Stewards of Sierra N.F., and Camp Adahi (CampFire Boys and Girls of Madera). The project is consistent with the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Standards & Guidelines (2004).

Findings Required by Other Laws

This action is consistent with:

1. The Sierra National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (SNF LRMP; USDA-FS 1992) (as amended in January 2004).

Implementation Date

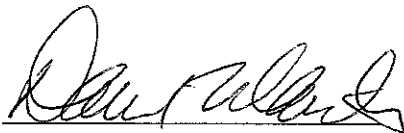
The procedures for legal notice and opportunity to comment (36CFR 215.4) do not apply to this project; therefore, implementation of the decision may begin immediately.

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

The decision is pursuant to CFR 215.4 (a) and is not subject to appeal. This project may be implemented immediately.

Contact Person

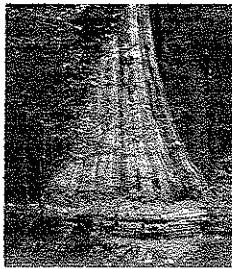
For further information contact Luz Vasquez, Bass Lake Ranger District, 57003 Road 225, North Fork, CA 93643 or (559) 877-2218 ext. 3207.

Signature and Date

DAVID W. MARTIN

District Ranger

Date: 10/13/11



Friends of Nelder Grove, Inc.

P.O. Box 1134, Oakhurst, CA 93644

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January 9, 2012

Sierra Nevada Conservancy,

Subject: Proposition 84, "Healthy Forest Grant Program"

I was recently contacted by Luz Vasquez, of the Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake Ranger District, informing me that the Sierra National Forest would be applying for a grant to help with Fuels Reduction in Nelder Grove. This is very exciting news for Friends of Nelder Grove and we would like to overwhelmingly offer our support for this project.

Friends of Nelder Grove, Inc. is a non-profit group comprised of citizens dedicated to better understanding of the cultural and natural history of Nelder Grove of Giant Sequoias leading to its interpretation and active management for the mutual benefits of sustaining Nelder Grove's natural resources and its use and enjoyment by the visiting public. We gladly support this project in any way that we can to help protect the area we care so much about.

This historical area is an ecologically unique area with high natural, research and recreation values due to the number of specimen sized Giant Sequoias, cultural artifacts and existing developed recreation sites (trails, interpretive sites, picnic area and campground). All of the above unique qualities of Nelder Grove are in danger because of the extreme fire danger in the grove. Fuels reduction in this area would be beneficial to ensuring that the Giant Sequoias, the recreation trails, the campground and historical areas will be protected so that visitors can experience the wonder and adventure that Nelder Grove has to offer.

We (Friends of Nelder Grove) are concerned about the fire danger in this area. The amount of fuel/debris surrounding the mature Giant Sequoias and the debris in general in the forest of our area is a major concern. In August of 2011 (this last summer) we had a fire in the area known as Nelder Basin. This particular area has Nelder Grove's largest Giant Sequoia. Thanks to our local firemen and their extremely quick response the Nelder Tree was saved. This particular fire could have been a catastrophe not only for Nelder Grove but also to our surrounding neighbors as well. Not too many years ago we also had a fire near our famous Bull Buck tree. The Bull Buck tree has a ground circumference of 100 feet and is estimated to be 2,700 years old. This fire got close enough to burn a section of fencing surrounding this majestic tree. Again, the quick response was our saving grace.

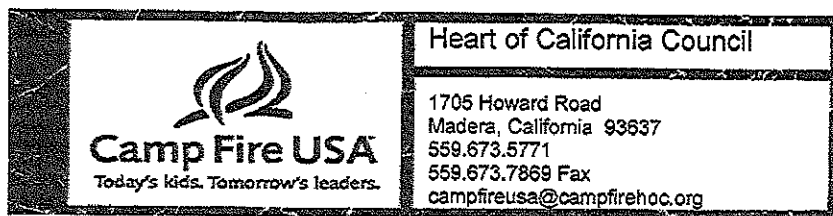
My grandparents (John and Marge Hawksworth) were campground hosts in Nelder Grove for 20 years. In 1979 my grandparents wrote a historic overview of Nelder Grove for the U.S. Forest Service. The first line, at the end of this report/book, under recommendations, page 120, they state, "To preserve and perpetuate the growth of Giant Sequoias in Nelder Grove, the clean-up of slash and competing trees around the Sequoias and fire prevention are the highest priorities." They continue this on page 121 with steps they would recommend to protect the grove from fire. This report was completed in 1979, it is now over 30 years later and I don't believe any of these concerns have been remedied, or have they been addressed. The lack of funds for the fuels reduction needed has been the biggest barrier. I know the local Forest Service has a desire to protect this area. With this grant, it could significantly improve the chances that this much needed work be completed.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. This opportunity to reduce the fuel load in Nelder Grove would be a dream come true.

Brenda Negley



Friends of Nelder Grove, President



October 17, 2011

Heart of California Council of Camp Fire USA has been helping the Forest Service by clearing the trails in Nelder Grove every year since 1985. This has become a much loved project of Camp Fire families. Their children learn to love and protect the forest. Each year we follow the guideline of removing any downed wood, throwing it off the trails on the downside of the hills. Since this is a protected area, no wood can be removed. The results of this practice plus the naturally downed wood that has piled up like match sticks over the last 40 or 50 years has created a potential tinder box.

This grove of 101 Giant Sequoias contains some of the largest, oldest and most beautiful trees in the world. Some of these trees are 2700 years old. Although these trees have thick bark and are naturally fire resistant, they would not stand a chance in the raging inferno that could happen because of all the fuel around them on the forest floor.

All one has to do is walk any one of the trails, Bullbuck, Shadow of the Giants, Chimney Tree or Graveyard of the Giants and take note of the downed wood to conclude we need to take action and clean up this forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald G. Warnock".

Donald G. Warnock
Permanent Camp Committee Chair
Camp Fire USA Heart of California Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathryn R. Warnock".

Cathryn R. Warnock
Program Administrator
Camp Fire USA Heart of California Council



December 22, 2011

Bill Dodge

Director of Operations

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Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Proposition 84 "Healthy Forests" Grant Program

I am writing this letter in support of the Sierra National Forest Bass Lake Ranger District's grant proposal, "Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project," being submitted to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Calvin Crest Conferences is a non-profit Christian camping organization that is located adjacent to Nelder Grove. We have been in existence since 1954, and have greatly valued our location, in part, because of its proximity to Nelder Grove. Guests of Calvin Crest have been visiting the grove for 57 years.

In 1978 we began an outdoor education program that principally serves public schools from the Central Valley, particularly in Fresno, Madera, Merced, and Kings Counties. Each year we have more than 2,000 students participate in our program, and we try to enable as many of them as possible to experience the majesty and uniqueness of giant sequoias. We do so most frequently on the Shadow of the Giants Trail in Nelder Grove. One of our most popular curriculum units is the Giant Sequoia unit, in which we teach students about giant sequoia ecology, about mixed coniferous forests, and about the significance and impacts of fire in the Sierra Nevada.

Our student population is very diverse from a socio-economic perspective. Many students are English Language Learners, and do not speak English when they go home. We have Hispanic, Hmong, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Thai, Khmer, Indian, and African-American students among the cultural groups in attendance. For many of these students, their time at Calvin Crest is their very first (and too often, only) exposure to the Sierra Nevada. We believe it is essential for them to be exposed to, and learn about, the natural world that exists so near to them geographically, but so far from their day-to-day lives. If they don't know about what is here in the Sierra, they will never care what happens to it. We want them to understand that human activities (as well as policies and practices) have a huge impact of the world around us, and to learn that good stewardship is vital to sustain our global environment.

A walk through any part of Nelder Grove makes it very clear to even a novice observer that the danger of catastrophic fire in the grove is very real. Scientists know that periodic fires (high frequency, low intensity) are extremely valuable, not only to the giant sequoia groves, but also to the entire western slope of the Sierra Nevada. What we have created, on the other hand, is a situation that promotes low frequency, very high intensity fires. We must rectify those conditions. The density of the surrounding forest, and the huge amount of fuel that exists, both in living trees and downed wood, create conditions that invite devastating wildfire. Sequoias that have lived 2,000 years and survived as many as 100 previous forest fires, will not survive the next one due to the enormous quantity of fuel that presently exists.

The Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project seeks to begin a vital process of restoring more natural conditions that will potentially save Nelder Grove's sequoias from wildfires that will otherwise certainly destroy them. I wholeheartedly support this proposal, and speaking on behalf of the administration and Calvin Crest's board of directors, we applaud the Bass Lake Ranger District for their efforts in this matter.

Respectfully,

Bill Dodge
Director of Operations

California State Senate

SENATOR
DOUG LA MALFA
FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES

NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER
VICE-CHAIR

ELECTIONS & CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENTS
VICE-CHAIR

AGRICULTURE

BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW

GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

JOINT FAIRS, ALLOCATIONS &
CLASSIFICATIONS
CHAIR

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(916) 651-4004

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SUITE 720
ROCKLIN, CA 95765
(916) 435-0744

1550 MYERS STREET
SUITE C
OROVILLE, CA 95965
(530) 532-5860

2885 CHURN CREEK ROAD
SUITE C
REDDING, CA 96002
(530) 225-3142

1080 MASON MALL
SUITE 4
CRESCENT CITY, CA 95531
(707) 464-1255

November 23, 2011

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Proposition 84 Grants Program Review Committee
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205
Auburn, CA 95603

RE: American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break, Auburn City Fire Department

Dear Committee Members:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to convey my strong support of the American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break collaborative project on the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation lands in and around the City of Auburn.

This important project will help to reduce the risk of wildfire to Auburn and surrounding communities. Reducing the level of fire fuels in the areas will serve to better protect the residential communities and recreational areas in and near the Auburn State Recreation Area.

I support the Auburn City Fire Department's application for grant funding as well as the department's commitment to coordinating this important project.

If my staff or I may provide you with additional information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug LaMalfa".

Doug LaMalfa
Senator, Fourth District

DL:cb

EG 467

Long-Term Management and Sustainability:

This project is considered the first step in the long term management of Nelder Grove. The SNF would continue to do pile burning along the four trail system and continue to provide a safe environment for the public to enjoy. The SNF would also continue to collaborate with its supporters to continue its relationships. The long term goals for Nelder Grove would be to continue to expand fuel reduction efforts in and around the trail systems, current infrastructure and specimen trees where accumulations would be at such a level that prescribed fire could be reintroduce into this fire dependent ecosystem. Along with this goal, a long-term management plan for Nelder Grove would address the preservation, protection and restoration of the Historic Area and the values it holds for wildlife, watershed, botanical species, and the visitors who come to see it.

Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

Vicinity Map



Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project Parcel Map

